

Remarks

Claims 1-17, 19 and 21-26 stand rejected and remain in the application. No claims are amended herein. The Assignee responds to the provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection by way of terminal disclaimer and requests allowance of claims 1-17, 19 and 21-26.

Provisional Obviousness-Type Double Patenting Rejection

Claims 1-17, 19 and 21-26 stand provisionally rejected under the judicially-created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1 and 3-12 of copending U.S. Patent Application No. 09/723,780. In response, the Assignee respectfully submits a terminal disclaimer herewith disclaiming the terminal part of any patent granted on the current application that would extend beyond the expiration date of the full statutory term of any patent granted on pending reference U.S. Patent Application No. 09/723,780, under the conditions presented in the terminal disclaimer.

Given the foregoing, the Assignee thus respectfully requests that the provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection of claims 1-17, 19 and 21-26 be withdrawn.

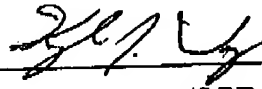
Conclusion

Based on the above remarks, the Assignee submits that claims 1-17, 19 and 21-26 are allowable, and thus respectfully requests allowance of claims 1-17, 19 and 21-26.

The Office is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 21-0765 in the amount of \$130.00 for the terminal disclaimer. The Assignee believes no additional fees are due with respect to this filing. However, should the Office determine additional fees are necessary, the Office is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 21-0765.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 5/12/05


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